

Remunerative Prices to a Agriculturists

*9. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the agriculturists are not getting remunerative prices for their produce; and

(b) if so, what steps are being contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) No, Sir,

(b) The Government are aware that remunerative prices are necessary for stable income to the farmer, for raising his ability to invest in agriculture and to expand agricultural production. With this in view, the Government not only fix support/procurement prices of foodgrains and commercial crops but also have been raising these prices as and when necessary.

SHRI R. P. YADAV: The agriculturists in the country are the most exploited. They do not get remunerative prices. Because of this, the jute cultivation is going down day by day in this country. I am surprised to know that the hon. Minister, himself being an agriculturist, does not know that remunerative prices are not being given to farmers. In this context, may I know from the Minister, what are the specific considerations before the Government while fixing the price of an agricultural product?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: The support prices are being fixed by the Agricultural Prices Commission. The cost of inputs the cost of labour of the farmers, the market conditions, the shortages in that particular food-grain or agricultural product, all these factors are taken into account. The Government always tries to fix the

support price with a view to benefiting the farmer and to encourage him to produce more. I do not know how the hon. Member has said that I do not know that remunerative prices are not being paid to the farmer..

SHRI R. P. YADAV: This is your answer to part (a) of the question.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: You ask:

"whether the Government are aware that the agriculturists are not getting remunerative prices for their produce;"

I say, I am not aware.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question (How is over!

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Amendment of Aligarh Muslim University Act

*1. SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend the Aligarh Muslim University Act to give it the minority character as promised in the Election Manifesto of the ruling party; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Legislation for assuring the minority character of the Aligarh Muslim University is intended to be introduced in the next session of Parliament.

Issue of Postal Stamps bearing Picture of Tribal Folk Dances

*10. SHRI P. A. SANGAMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to issue postal stamps bearing the pictures of tribal folk-dances; and